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Approved For Release 2007/06/21 : CIA-RDP99-00498R000100040107-2

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PROGRAM The Today Show

STATION WRC TV
NBC Network

DATE February 18, 1976 7:00 AM CITY Washington, D. C.

SUBJECT An Interview with Director Bush

JIM HARTZ: As you have heard in the news, President Ford last night proposed that George Bush, the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, be given power to control all American spy agencies. This is a controversial plan of far-reaching importance, and Mr. Bush is in our Washington News Center this morning to discuss it with us. Also there is NBC News correspondent Ford Rowan.

And I would like to put the first question to Mr. Bush. Mr. Bush, it seems that much of the concern about the CIA and other intelligence agencies is their domestic activities. The President has proposed several oversight committees, but all of which would report to him.

Do you not think that there needs to be congressional oversight?

CIA DIRECTOR GEORGE BUSH: Well, I certainly do think that there should be congressional oversight. Part of the President's recommendation to the leaders last night was a joint committee on oversight. Clearly, as Director of the CIA and as Director of Central Intelligence, I will want to report fully to the Congress. My only hope is that instead of reporting to eight committees, we can simplify it, report to fewer, hopefully one, maybe three, and do a more thorough job.

But clearly, this agency, under my direction, will cooperate with any oversight mechanism set up by the Congress. And that is in the President's plan.

FORD ROWAN: Mr. Bush, if I could follow up on that,

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